a computer usable code having a computer readable program code medium embodied therein for controlling the transfer of a shift change in a place of employment, the computer readable program code medium comprising:

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to ascertain an identity of an owner of a shift,

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to accept a conditional offer, by the owner of the shift, to trade the shift for another shift of another employee;

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to display to other employees the conditional offer to trade the shift for another shift;

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to receive a conditional acceptance from a second employee to trade a shift of the second employee for the offered shift of the owner of the shift;

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to approve the transferring of a shift of the owner to the second employee only if the eligibility data of the second employee matches that of the work area function associated with the shift of the owner.

3. The system as set forth in claim 2 wherein the memory of the computer further includes an additional list of time shifts of each of the employees wherein each time shift has one of the work area functions associated therewith and computer-readable program code for causing the computer to allow the browsing and printing of the additional list.

4. The system as set forth in claim 2 wherein the memory of the computer further includes an additional list of notifications each corresponding to a unique combination of the employees and the

work area functions based on the eligibility data associated therewith and further included is computer-readable program code for causing the computer to display one of the notifications from the [third] additional list which corresponds to the combination of the eligibility data of the recipient and the eligibility data of the transferred work area function.

5. The system as set forth in claim 2 and further including computer-readable program code for causing the computer to verify an identity of a management user and computer-readable program code for causing the computer to allow the editing of the lists only after the verification of the identity of the management user.

6. A computer-implemented method for processing signals related to a first list of employees each having a criteria of eligibility data associated therewith and a second list of work area functions each having a criteria of eligibility data associated therewith, the method comprising:

ascertaining an identity of an owner of a shift,

ascertaining an identity of a potential recipient of a shift by:

accepting a conditional offer, by the owner of the shift, to trade the shift for a shift of another employee;

displaying to other employees the conditional offer to trade the shift for another shift;

receiving a conditional acceptance from the potential recipient to trade a shift of the potential recipient for the shift offered by the owner of the shift; and

approving the transferring of a shift of the owner to the potential recipient only if the eligibility data of the potential recipient matches that of the work area function associated with the shift of the owner.

Cancel claim 8.

9. A system comprising:

a computer with memory having stored therein a list of employees;

a computer usable code having a computer readable program code medium embodied therein for controlling the transfer of a shift change in a place of employment, the computer readable program code medium [in said article of manufacture] comprising:

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to ascertain an identity of an owner of a shift;

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to ascertain an identity of a recipient of a shift; and

computer-readable program code for causing the computer to approve the transferring of a shift of the owner to the recipient only upon certain criteria being met;

wherein the criteria is a length of time before a requested shift transfer.

10. The system as set forth in claim 9 wherein the criteria includes whether any shifts of at least one of the owner and recipient overlap.

Please add the following claims:

11. A computer-implemented method for processing signals related to trading shifts between employees, the method comprising:

accepting a conditional offer, by a first employee assigned to work a first shift, to trade the first shift for another shift of another employee;

displaying to other employees the conditional offer to trade the first shift for another shift;

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receiving a conditional acceptance from a second employee to trade a second shift of the second employee for the offered first shift of the first employee; and

confirming a trade of the first shift of the first employee for the second shift of the second employee upon verification of criteria, or rejecting the trade of the first shift for the second shift upon non-verification of the criteria.

12. The computer-implemented method of claim 11 wherein the step of confirming includes checking training data associated with the second employee in a training data database, and comparing the training data associated with the second employee with training requirements associated with a work area function to be performed on the first shift to verify that the second employee is qualified to perform the work area functions associated with the first shift.

13. The computer-implemented method of claim 11 wherein the step of confirming includes checking a length of time between a time of receipt of the conditional acceptance and a time of occurrence of the first shift and the second shift against a minimum time period for trading shifts to verify that the length of time is not less that the minimum time period.

14. The computer-implemented method of claim 11 additionally including displaying to the second employee, upon confirmation of the trade, notifications relevant to the work area function of the first shift and the training data associated with the second employee.

15. The computer-implemented method of claim 11 additionally including indicating to the first employee, upon confirmation of the trade, the confirmation of the trade.

16. The computer-implemented method of claim 11 additionally including restricting access to information about the trade of the first shift for the second shift upon confirmation of the trade.

17. The computer-implemented method of claim 11 wherein the step of confirming includes checking training data associated with the second employee in a training data database, and comparing the training data associated with the second employee with training requirements associated with a work area function to be performed on the first shift to verify that the second employee is qualified to perform the work area functions associated with the first shift;

wherein the step of confirming includes checking a length of time between a time of receipt of the conditional acceptance and a time of occurrence of the first shift and the second shift against a minimum time period for trading shifts to verify that the length of time is not less that the minimum time period;

additionally including displaying to the second employee, upon confirmation of the trade, notifications relevant to the work area function of the first shift and the training data associated with the second employee;

additionally including indicating to the first employee, upon confirmation of the trade, the confirmation of the trade; and

additionally including restricting access to information about the trade of the first shift for the second shift upon confirmation of the trade.